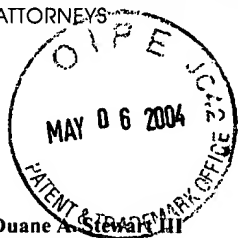


Buchanan Ingersoll PC

ATTORNEYS



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May 6, 2004

Mail Stop AF
Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

Re: U.S. Utility Patent Application No.: 09/630,454
Filed: August 2, 2000
Title: Novel Bacterial Strains, Methods of Preparing the Same and
Use Thereof in Fermentation Processes for L-Lysine Production
Inventors: Liaw, et al.
Attorney Reference No.: 031008

Sir:

Transmitted herewith for appropriate action are the following documents:

1. Amendment and Reply to Final Office Action under 37 C.F.R. § 1.116;
2. Certificate of Mailing (Express Mail);
3. 1 (one) return postcard;
4. Form PTO/SB/81, "Power of Attorney and Correspondence Address Indication Form";
5. Form PTO/SB/82, "Revocation of Power of Attorney with New Power of Attorney and Change of Correspondence Address"; and
6. Form PTO/SB/96, "Statement Under 37 C.F.R. 3.73(b)" (2 copies with assignments).

It is respectfully requested that the attached postcard be stamped with the date of filing these documents and that it be returned. In the event that extensions of time are necessary to prevent abandonment of this Patent Application, then such extensions of time are hereby petitioned. The U.S. Patent and Trademark Office is hereby authorized to charge any fee deficiency or credit any overpayment to our Deposit Account No. 02-4553. A duplicate copy of this letter is enclosed for that purpose.

May 5, 2004

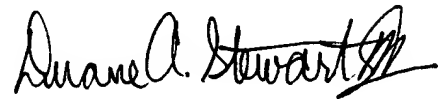
Page - 2 -

Additionally, please note the **change of address** to which correspondence is directed in this case:

Craig G. Cochenour, Esq.
One Oxford Centre
301 Grant Street, 20th Floor
Pittsburgh, PA 15219-1410

The Examiner is asked to kindly take note of the new attorney reference number in this case, 031008.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Duane A. Stewart III", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Duane A. Stewart III
Attorney at Law
Reg. No. 54,468

DASIII/emp

Enclosures